THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Scheduled helicopter services are not being operated by any helicopter operator in any part of the country, including the North-Eastern Region. However, Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL), Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, is providing helicopter services on charter basis in the State Governments/Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Tripura, Punjab and Lakshadweep. PHHL is also providing helicopter services to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Hardy Oil, Oil India, Gas Authority of India Limited, National Hydro Power Corporation as well as Ministry of Home Affairs. The Government has approved recently a proposal of resumption of helicopter services in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. There is no fixed life span of a helicopter as long as it is maintained in accordance with the requirements prescribed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and the manufacturer. The helicopter deployed in Lakshadweep is being maintained as per these requirements.

(d) PHHL has a plan to acquire ten medium capacity helicopters for replacement of its fleet during the Tenth Five Year Plan. Two AS365N3 Dauphin helicopters have been acquired by PHHL recently.

Upgradation of ILS at IGIA

15. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Instrument Landing System (ILS) Cat-III(A) installed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport is not capable of blind landings and a large number of flights had to be delayed for long daily in the recent foggy conditions;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the available ILS facility is not being used to its optimum level due to lack of adequate training to pilots and the recurring communication snags between the control tower and the outer marker; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to upgrade the Landing System and also for better training of pilots for landings even in poor visibility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. the Instrument

Landing System (ILS) Cat-III(A) is not capable of permitting blind landings at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi. However, the System permits authorized aircraft to land in poor visibility conditions in Runway Visual Range of not less than 200 metres.

(b) The facility of ILS Cat-III(A) at IGI Airport has not been utilized fully due to inadequate training of the pilots of airlines.

(c) There is no proposal to further upgrade this ILS at the IGI Airport since even the present facility has not been fully utilized by the airlines.

Closure of overseas Indian Airlines Offices

16. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of offices of Indian Airlines in different parts of the world, country-wise and city-wise:

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines is seriously thinking of closing down its offices in Europe:

(c) if so, the details of the offices proposed to be closed down; and

(d) what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Indian Airlines has its offices in 18 cities in 14 countries outside India.

(b) Indian Airlines is not having any office in Europe.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Upgradation of Nagpur Airport

17. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Maharashtra has sent a proposal to the Central Government for upgradation of Nagpur Airport; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and by when the proposal would be cleared especially when there is no financial liability of Government in this regard?